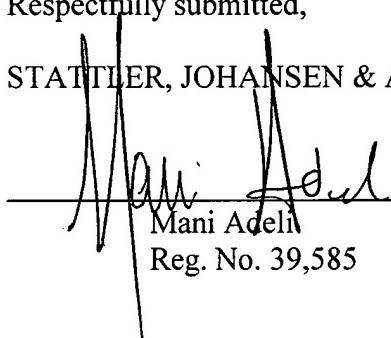


**REMARKS**

This Preliminary Amendment is concurrently filed with the above-entitled application, which is a continuation application of a presently pending application entitled "Routing Method and Apparatus that Utilizes Diagonal Routes," filed on December 7, 2001, and having serial number 10/013,819. In this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have changed the title of this application, inserted a reference to the related parent application, canceled claims 1-26, added claims 27-57, and replaced the Summary and Abstract. Accordingly, claims 27-57 are currently pending in this application.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Dated: 1/5/02

  
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